

of Labour in Labour Ministers' Conference, Minimum Wages Central Advisory Board, Minimum Wages Advisory Board and meetings of Labour Secretaries of State Governments. The implementation of minimum wages, especially in the field of agriculture, is being reviewed periodically at Inter-Departmental meetings. As a result of these reviews, undertaken from time to time, State Governments are advised regarding strengthening of enforcement machinery, periodic revision of minimum wages, constitution of tripartite committees at various levels to oversee the implementation of the Act, for necessary publicity of wages fixed, inclusion of various employments in the Schedule for the purpose of fixing and revising minimum wages, intensification of workers' education programme in rural areas to create awareness among agriculture workers about their rights in regard to minimum wages, promotion of attempts to organise workers in rural areas and to devote special attention towards enforcement of prescribed wages in respect of agriculture workers in vulnerable areas where there was a concentration of SC/ST agricultural labourers or which were low-wage pockets, Senior Officials of the Ministry of Labour have also been visiting various States to review the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. So far 14 States have been covered by such visits. Besides, the Labour Bureau, under the Ministry, is also conducting special surveys regarding the enforcement of the provisions of the Act in the agriculture sector. All instances of violation brought to the notice of Central Government are referred to the respective State Governments for appropriate action.

Production and import of LPG Cylinder Valves

113. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the imports of LPG cylinder valves for the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 showing the (i) number of valves; (ii) name of the countries from which imported; and (iii) the amount of foreign exchange involved;

(b) whether such valves are also manufactured indigenously; and

(c) if not, whether there are any proposals for manufacturing the same indigenously to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) For the year 1983-84 no import of LPG cylinder valves was made. For the year 1984-85, 14 lakhs valves are being imported from Denmark. The amount of foreign exchange involved is D.KR.22,713,889.86 equivalent to Rs. 2,45,82,130.00.

(b) No, Sir. Similar type of self-closing type valves of different internal design are being manufactured indigenously.

(c) Import was organised to meet the shortfall in indigenous availability and also to obtain technology on valves to be made available to indigenous manufacturers for standardisation of design and improvement in quality.

Production and Import of Petroleum

114. SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to lay a statement showing:—

(a) the total quantity of Petroleum, liquid and gas available indigenously from various places indicating the quantity place-wise, the total requirement of the country, and quantity being imported (country-wise) with amount involved;

(b) whether there is any programme/plan to meet the entire needs of the country indigenously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c). The total crude oil production and gas supplies during the

period April-December 1984 have been as follows :—

Crude oil production	(Million tonnes)
Onshore	6.6
Offshore	14.5
Gas supplies (billion cubic metres)	2.51

The current production of crude oil meets about 70% of the country's requirement.

Net crude oil imports during the first six months of the current year have been 4.73 million tonnes (valued at Rs. 1124.6 crores). It is not in public interest to indicate place-wise production and country-wise imports.

Some of the steps for increasing crude oil production are as follows :

- (i) upgradation of the prognosticated hydrocarbon reserves to proved geological reserves in the shortest possible time;
- (ii) use of enhanced oil recovery techniques;
- (iii) intensification of work-over operations;
- (iv) intensification of exploration in less precisely known geological regions which eventually lead to enhanced production; and
- (v) induction of advanced technology.

Proposal to Engage American oil Firms for off-Shore oil Exploration

115. SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to engage American oil firms with sub-

stantial buy-back facility for off-shore oil exploration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :

(a) : No, Sir,

(b) : Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchange in Nawada (Bihar) into Automatic Telephone Exchange

116. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme for converting the Manual Telephone Exchange in Nawada (Bihar) into Automatic Telephone Exchange is proposed to be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the time by which it would be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The Scheme would be taken up for implementation in 1985-86.

[*English*]

Places Where Elections were not held

117. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the elections for Eighth Lok Sabha were not held in some places alongwith the rest of the country; and